EXHIBIT 23
DATE Jan 27, 2011
HB 6

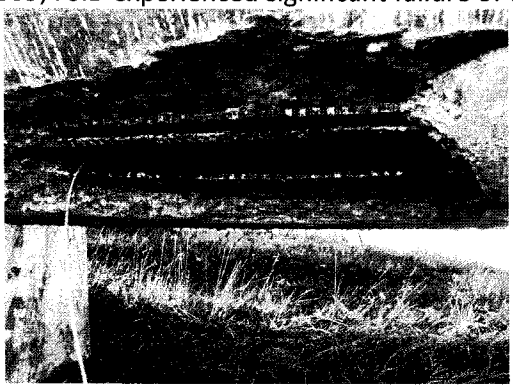
Preserving & Enhancing Fort Shaw Irrigation District

Background Information

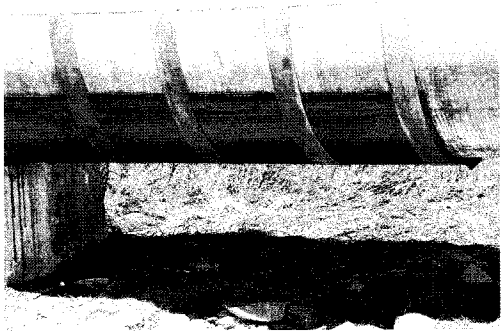
- Fort Shaw Irrigation District was built in 1908 making it one of the oldest irrigation districts in Montana
- Distributes water to approximately 11,600 acres on 177 farms
- Infrastructure of 12 miles main canal, 89 miles of lateral canals, and hundreds of turnouts
- Since 1996 has made major improvements including headworks automation, canal lining, conversion from open ditches to pipelines, and water monitoring devices
- FSID is requesting a RRGL grant for two more major infrastructure improvements
  - FSID match for projects is $196,522
  - RRGL grant $ 100,000
- Proposed improvements will ensure operational sustainability into next century, conserve water, improve water quality and in-stream flows in the Sun River, and improve soil quality.

Part 1 - Simms Creek Siphon Rehabilitation

- Simms Creek siphon is a major conveyance component for water delivery to most of the 11,000 acres in FSID
- In 2009, FSID experienced significant failure of this siphon during driest part of the irrigation season



Shows extent 2009 siphon failure

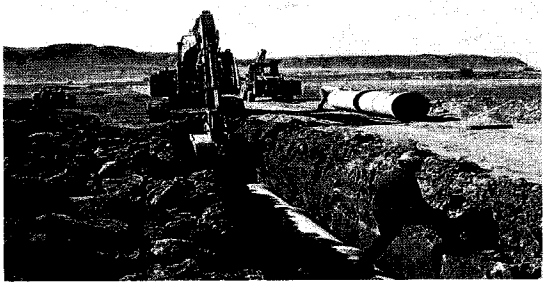


Temporary Repair to Reinstate Service

- Siphon was temporarily patched in less than four days to restore operation and water deliveries
- Project will rehabilitate siphon to help extend service life for almost another 100 years

Part 2 - C-K Ditch Enhancement

- C-K Ditch delivers water to east end of the FSID
- Canal seeps large amounts of water causing delivery problems and water quality/salinity problems
- Project will convert open ditch to pipeline to conserve water and improve water quality
- New pipeline route will also result in a reduction of open ditches



Previous pipeline project

Benefits

- Enhance FSID ability to deliver water into the next century
- Keep a key part of the local economy going for many more years
- Conserve water to benefit FSID and the Sun River
- Return irrigated lands back to production lost from detrimental seepage
- Improve water quality in Sun River
- Enhance in-stream flows in Sun River